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This is my story being unemployed for the past two years. I have always been an independent woman working since the age of 16 being responsible and raising a son on my own who will be 19 years old coming up in August 2010.

I was let go from my company on May 27, 2008 and still no job in sight. I no longer have been eligible for any unemployment benefits since February 16, 2010. I have had no income since that time. It is June 11, 2010 now and still no job insight and no income. The last 4 months depleted my savings because of zero income. Being unemployed has created a tremendous hardship financially and emotionally.

I no longer was able to make my house payment of approximately \$500/month. I have had the mortgage for 17 years with never a late payment. Doesn't sound like much, but when you run totally out of money you cannot even pay the smallest payment. This is the first time I have been harassed by my mortgage company and it isn't any fun when you tell them over and over again that you are unable to make the payment. Your self-esteem is shot down while bills keep piling up.

I have searched for a job extensively. In the interview process, being an administrative assistant, they first call to give you a telephone interview, if you pass that, you receive a first physical interview, if you pass that, you receive a second physical interview and then you wait to see if you landed the job, while consistently applying for new open job postings. I have been told they receive 200 – 400 or more resumes for each single job that has been posted. I have tried for many jobs outside of my field as well, but because I have had no experience in that particular area I was not considered as they had more than enough candidates who have experience looking for a job.

I am an older woman who lost her job at the age of 49 and I am now 51. I have applied for at least a minimum of 3000 jobs in two years time. I feel fortunate to have received interviews, but it doesn't change the fact that I haven't been given a job offer.

So, not only being reduced to poverty, this situation has caused me to develop high stress and anxiety wondering whether I will ever land a job. Also, you really find out who your friends are as so many people abandon you because you are not successful and refuse to believe that you haven't been able to get hired. People that are not in the situation have no idea or concept as to how bad it is to land a job in today's economic situation.

Being from Minnesota, Minnesota did not qualify for Tier IV either. I am no longer in the count for unemployment statistics either. So, the answer to the question, should there be a Tier V for all long-term unemployment individuals. The answer is definitely "YES".